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SEAFDEC AQD Matters

In-house newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo

RTC on International Fisheries Related Issues

This year's ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries Related Issues was held at Chiang Mai, Thailand last February 12 to 14. The consultation was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC member-countries.

The Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments, as well as representatives from the Maejo University of Chiang Mai also attended the Consultation.

The objectives of the consultation were to review and discuss important international fisheries related issues relevant to the region; formulate policy recommendations and coordinate common positions of the member-countries on respective issues; and identify follow-up actions for



The participants in this year's RTC on International Fisheries Related Issues. AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo represented AQD.

the member-countries and SEAFDEC to be undertaken.

Considered as having the most potential impacts on fisheries in the ASEAN and SEAFDEC member-countries, the following international fisheries issues were identified as priority issues for 2008. .

1. Legally-binding instrument on port state measures
2. Traceability, certification, and labelling
3. Small-scale fisheries issues

4. Fisheries subsidies
5. Climate change and fisheries
6. Endangered aquatic species under CITES
7. Welfare of fishing crew and fishing labor

Among the seven issues, three (3) were identified to directly affect aquaculture. These are: certification of aquaculture products, endangered aquatic species identified by CITES, and climate change and fisheries.

Department Chiefs' Meeting

Back-to-back with the RTC on International Fisheries Related Issues, the Department Chiefs' Meeting was held last February 15 in the same venue.

Two proposals for the collaborative programs under ASEAN foundation were presented. These are the *Promotion of "One Village, One Fisheries Products (FOVOP)" system to improve the livelihood*

for the fisheries communities in ASEAN region and Human Resource Development (HRD) on poverty alleviation and food security by fisheries intervention in the ASEAN region.

In line with the first proposal, the Secretariat will conduct the first Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on the Promotion of FOVOP in the ASEAN Region this March 24-27 at Bangkok, Thailand.

Also discussed during the meeting were finance and information-related matters, and the agenda and preparations needed for the upcoming Fortieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on April 7 to 10 in Bali, Indonesia. AQD Chief Dr. Joebert Toledo, Deputy Chief Dr. Hiroshi Ogata, and Mrs. Belen Acosta attended the Department Chiefs' Meeting.

Misamis Occidental inks agreement with AQD

Another Philippine province teams up with AQD with the formal signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between AQD Chief Joebert Toledo and Misamis Occidental Governor Loreto Leo Ocampos last January 31 at the Misamis Occidental Aquamarine Park (MOAP).

Board Members Dello Lood, Jimmy Regalado, Estela Obut as well as AQD Research Division Head Dr. Evelyn Grace de Jesus-Ayson

were present to witness the signing.

Under the MOA which is effective for two years, AQD shall transfer the technologies on integrated grouper hatchery and culture and fishery resources management. AQD will provide a technician as well as training for the province's technical staff and support the development of mariculture in Misamis Occidental. Impact assessment studies will be conducted as well.

On the part of Misamis Occidental, the government shall provide logistical support, initiate action from the grassroots level, allow AQD's use of MOAP for researchers and technical staff, and enact policies for the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry in the province.

An amount of P6,661,395 will be appropriated by the province for the implementation of mariculture projects which will include the construction of hatchery and grow-out facilities.



The AQD satellite office at the Misamis Occidental Aquamarine Park (right). Board Members Dello Lood, Jimmy Regalado, Estela Obut; Dr. Joebert Toledo, Governor Loreto Leo Ocampos, and Dr. Evelyn Grace de Jesus-Ayson during the MOA signing (above).

Rains prompt Dumarao emergency harvest

Six consecutive days of rain in the municipality of Dumarao, Capiz threatened to submerge demo-farm cages prompting an emergency partial harvest February 19, during the second phase of the *Season-long training course on freshwater aquaculture*.

Two out of the eight cages were partially harvested

yielding Nile tilapia and hybrid catfish weighing between 100 to 150 grams each.

Training participants who were members of people's cooperatives purchased the harvested fish themselves.

The cages, measuring 4x4x1.5 meters each, are part of the Capiz component of the

Dream Project (Institutional capacity development for sustainable aquaculture).

The cages are scheduled for a total harvest on March 18 during the last session of the training course. Based on the partial harvest yield, the tilapia and catfish are on target to reach at least 200 grams apiece.

Trainees prepare to harvest catfish and tilapia from the flooded cages (right). Mr. Deogracias Reyes demonstrates tilapia sexing to trainees (far right).



R PAGADOR



AQD advisees dominate research competitions

All winners in the three categories of the 3rd BIOTA Regional Biology Student Research Competition held on February 20 conducted their research under the supervision or assistance of AQD scientists.

The research tilt was held at the University of San Agustin and is organized by the Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines Western Visayas Chapter.

First place for the college group category went to students from the University of Saint La Salle, Bacolod namely Merryjan Azucena, Jennifer Federizo, Cherry Grande, Jonel Lim, Nea

Cecille Quiachon, and Myra Valencia. Along with their adviser Jessica Pacalioga, the students acknowledged Annie Franco and Dr. Evelyn Grace de Jesus-Ayson of AQD for assistance with the spirulina culture and the conduct of the crude protein analysis. Their study was entitled *Effect of waste aquaculture pondwater and treated seawater on the production of spirulina arthrospira platensis*.

First prize, high school, individual oral presentation category was won by Kristelie Mae Tilla-in from Capiz National High School. Her study was on *Gel strength analysis, hardness test, and viscosity test of alginate from brown alga (Sargassum oligocystum) carageenan from red alga (Kappaphycus alvarezii) and agar from (Gracilaria bailinae) for the binding capacity of abalone (Haliotis asinina) diet*. She worked under consultation with AQD's Ms. Maria Rovilla Luhan and Dr. Relicardo Coloso. She also acknowledged Mr. Kenneth Tibubos for assistance in processing the seaweeds

Paul Eugene Avelino, Felizardo Demayuga, Jr., and Christopher Dellota from Capiz National High School emerged first place (high school team category) with their study *Immunostimulating diet additive from calamansi (Citrus microcarpa Bunge) rind crude extract for tiger prawns (Penaeus monodon Fabricius)*. Their adviser is Dr. Edgar Amar of AQD.

National Intel Philippine Science Fair

AQD's advisees also made a mark in the National Intel Philippine Science Fair last February 13-17 2008 in Tagaytay City.

Mae Anne Tabasin (Team Leader), Tranquilino Tono, and John Vincent Gabiano of Maasin National High School emerged 1st place with their study *The effects of levamisole on the non-specific cellular immune response in tilapia, Oreochromis niloticus*. Their adviser is also Dr. Amar.

Congratulations to all the winning students and to their mentors!

-REPORTED BY C PITOGO



C PITOGO
Mikhail Eusebio, son of AQD's Perla Eusebio, won the award as Best Oral Presenter and his paper garnered 3rd Prize in the individual category.

Mangrove training slated

In cooperation with Resilience of Coastal Populations and Aquatic Resources (RESCOPAR, Wageningen University), AQD will be conducting a Training Course on Mangrove Ecology, Taxonomy and Community Structure on April 30 to May 4, 2008 at the Tigbauan Main Station and Ibajay, Aklan.

The 5-day course aims to provide participants with technical knowledge and skills to identify and

characterize mangrove species and communities, and select appropriate species for replanting. The course consists of lectures on mangrove biology and ecology, taxonomy, and community structures with corresponding field work and laboratory calculations. All field work will be done in Ibajay where healthy and highly diverse mangroves are present. Moreover, nearby Kalibo has the best man-made mangrove

plantation in the country.

The training fee is US\$450 per person. This covers registration fee, training materials, honoraria of lecturers, and transportation and travel to and from Ibajay, Aklan. Participants must cover expenses on lodging and meals, and international and domestic airfares. Local participants can avail of a special training fee.

AQD website spiced-up

Leave comments, browse news archives, search for photos. These are just some of the things you can do with the AQD News blog and photo gallery - recent additions to the slowly evolving AQD website.

AQD News Blog

Official AQD news stories are now accessible at www.aqdnews.blogspot.com. An interesting feature of the blog is the ability of visitors to leave comments on the news stories. If you have additional inputs or questions to ask, simply click on the comments link at the bottom of the article

and leave your message.

The new blog also features an archive that sorts the news chronologically, making it easier to browse older articles. Simply click the little arrow beside the month or year to show or hide news titles.

To look for information faster, a search box is also available on the top-left corner of the page.

Also, you can e-mail interesting articles to your friends directly from the news blog. Just click the little envelope beside the comments link. For the more tech-savvy, the new AQD blog also means you can subscribe to its feeds.

"Blog" is a term for a website where entries are usually displayed with the most recent first.

AQD Photo Gallery

Visual stories of different AQD activities are now available for the world to see at www.flickr.com/seafdecaqd. This new photo gallery will host photos based on approved news stories.

If you're looking for photos of specific persons or events, the search box on the upper-right portion of the screen will prove handy. Uploaded photos are tagged with relevant keywords so finding the right one should be no sweat.

A visitor with a Flickr account may also leave comments on each of the photos. Creating one is just a few clicks away if you already have a Yahoo! account.

Flickr is one of the most popular photo management and sharing websites already hosting billions of photographs.

In the pipeline

Watch out, AQD videos will also be available soon at YouTube.com, currently the most popular video sharing website. *The AQD Magic* will be posted in April.

Dr. JH Primavera in Science Magazine Booklet

"At home you think of work and at work you think of your babies at home," describes AQD's Scientist Emeritus Dr. Jurgenne Primavera referring to her experience of being a mother and a scientist at the same time.

Dr. Primavera is included in the L'Oréal Women in Science booklet along with other "women scientists" from around the world.

The booklet was commissioned by the *Science* magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in cooperation with the L'Oréal Corporate Foundation in time for the L'Oréal-Unesco Awards for Women in Science.

Dr. Primavera is seen along with her two grandchildren in page 18 of the booklet that hopes to inspire young female scientists, undergraduate students, and school children to consider a career in science.

Download the PDF of the booklet online from www.sciencecareers.org/lorealwis.



The news blog (top) and photo gallery (above) are new ways for AQD to extend its reach to the online world.

Special trainings at the BFS

Fourteen staff based in BFS participated in a special in-house trainings' training on Natural Food Culture and Feed Formulation conducted November 12-22, 2007. The training course intended to upgrade the skills of the BFS staff in the preparation and formulation of aquatic animal feeds.

Ms. Antonieta Evangelista, Ms. Alma Lazartigue, and Mr Manuel Laron lectured on natural food culture, computation of plankton density, nutrition and feeding, feed formulation, and feed preparation & proper storage.

The participants were given hands-on training on the proper techniques in phytoplankton isolation and identification, media preparation, phyto- and zooplankton culture, processing of indigenous raw materials as feed ingredients, preparation of feed ingredients, and the production of tilapia feeds.

Cyanobacteria training

In another training, two graduate students from the University of the Philippines' College of Engineering attended a special training

course on the Basic Techniques on the Culture of Cyanobacteria last January 31 to February 2, 2008.

The training provided the participants with technical skills on natural food culture and supplemental knowledge on recent developments in the propagation of toxic blue green algae for research purposes.

Lectures were on Natural Food Culture (Phytoplankton) and Microcystins. The participants were given hands-on training on the proper techniques in phytoplankton isolation and identification, media preparation, and phytoplankton culture. The main resource persons were Ms. Antonieta Evangelista, Dr. Maria Lourdes Aralar and Ms. Alma Lazartigue.



Mrs. Evangelista explains how hatched Artemia are harvested (top). The participants preparing culture media during the natural food culture practicals (above).

The topics helped the students prepare for the conduct of their masteral theses which focus on the blue green algae (*Microcystis* sp), the toxins they produce and the presence of these cyanobacteria in natural water bodies.

-REPORTED BY MRR EGUIA

Congrats new nurses, proud parents!

The AQD family congratulates the recent nursing board passers and their proud parents. They are among the 28,924 who passed out of 67,728 takers of the Nurse Licensure Examination conducted December last year.

Stephen Christian Lio-Po, son of Dr. Gilda Lio-Po, Fish Health Section head
Ryan Francis Pacino, son of Ms. Luisa Pacino, Information Associate at the Library
Elaine Grace and **Therese Anne Tresvalles**, twin daughters of Ms. Ma. Antonia Tresvalles, Admin Assistant III of RD
Rolie Torreta, son of Ms. Fely Torreta, Research Associate at the Diagnostic/Microtechnique Lab

AQD joins UP Centennial Parade



Calling themselves *Taga-UP sa SEAFDEC*, AQD-based alumni and graduate students of the University of the Philippines were among the estimated 6,000 people who attended the UP Visayas Grand Centennial Parade last January 26. The AQD contingent marched the 4-kilometer parade nicknamed *Bayle sa Kalye* which began at Plaza Libertad and culminated with a program at the UP Iloilo City Campus.

The parade jumpstarts the year-round centennial celebration of UP to be highlighted by a Grand Centennial Alumni



RD DIANALA

Homecoming in Araneta Coliseum this June and a Grand Lantern Parade at UP Diliman in December.

A notable number of AQD employees are UP alumni including the Chief and three Division Heads.

Partial harvest of Petron milkfish cages

Two tons of milkfish were harvested February 28 from one of the cages of the Petron cage culture project at the Igang Marine Station.

Since their stocking in the cages August last year, the milkfish have grown to an average of 400 grams per piece. The harvest was

sold at the Iloilo Fishing Port Complex.

Petron approved the partial harvest which was conducted in consonance with the 5th session of the *Season-long training course on milkfish cage culture*. It was also a good time to harvest because of favorable market prices

The last harvest of the cage is scheduled on March 18. Two other cages are still in grow-out phase.



Contributions from AQD employees are always welcome!

Please send text separately from your photos. Devcom also uses these materials to update the AQD website and as SEAFDEC Newsletter articles. Having the original text and photos would give us more flexibility

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